

August 4, 2024

What is the Church?

1 Corinthians 3:5-17

Who are we? That's one of the great questions of life. That question also applies to the gathered church. Who, or what, is the church? What makes the church different from every other building or organization in the world? In this section Paul uses three metaphors to describe the church. Attached to the metaphors is a warning. If the church ceases to be what God has stated it is, then its uniqueness is destroyed.

Additional Verses:

Exodus 40:34-35

2 Chronicles 5:11-14

Psalms 65:9-13

Matthew 16:18; 28:20

Ephesians 2:10; 5:25

Revelation 1:10-12, 20; 2:1-5

Outline:

1. The church is God's field (dependence).

2. The church is God's building (care).

3. The church is God's temple (holiness).

Study Questions:

1. Briefly describe each metaphor. Which one challenges you the most in understanding the church?

2. How are believers called to work together in the church? How does this destroy any boasting in one's own talents?

3. Why is God concerned with how we build? How can we build with materials that will survive on the Day?

4. Why is the church warned about being destroyed? How does this reconcile with the promise that the gates of hell shall not prevail over the church from Matthew 16:17-20?

5. How does Revelation 2:1-5 encourage us and help us understand the seriousness of the warning in 1 Corinthians 3:17?

6. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to respond to God today?